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emphasizes the environment that had so much to do in shaping Hudson's results. His ascent of the Hudson River is especially detailed and commented upon. As Hudson was not a Hollander by birth, residence, language or sympathy, the author thinks it quite inappropriate to give a Dutch form to his name.

Scouting and Reconnaissance in Savage Countries. By Captain

C. H. Stigand. ix and 143 pp., Diagrams, 3 Charts, and Index. Hugh Rees, Ltd., London, 1907. (Price, 5s.)

A book fitted for the pocket and intended to help travellers in barbarous countries to get their approximate bearings by observations of the sun, moon, stars, or wind; to tell the time by the sun, moon, or stars; to fill their field books with helpful notes, and to become good trackers; or, in other words, to read and interpret correctly signs or marks left by man or animal; also, general hints as to clothing and equipment, methods of studying tribal customs and differences and of reconnoitering hostile villages and how to use the three star maps that accompany the book. The little work has much interest and helpfulness, not only for the scout and the traveller in a desert or tropical wilderness, but also for all who may wish to study woodcraft and the art of observation.

Southern France, including Corsica. Handbook for Travellers.

By Karl Baedeker. Fifth Edition. xxviii and 578 pp., 30 Maps, 49 Plans, and Index. Karl Baedeker, Leipzig, and Paul Ollendorff, Paris, 1907. (Price, M. 9.)

This handbook deals with the entire southern part of France south of the Loire. As usual, the numerous plans of the cities are excellent, and Corsica, with its mountainous topography sharply defined, is mapped on a much larger scale than on most maps which are accessible to the general public.

Dreissig Jahre in der Südsee: Land und Leute, Sitten und Gebräuche im Bismarckarchipel und auf den deutschen Salamoinseln, von R. Parkinson. Herausgegeben von Dr. B. Ankermann, Direktor-Assistent am Königlichen Museum für Völkerkunde zu Berlin. Stuttgart, Verlag von Strecker und Schröder, 1907. Pp. xxii, 876, 4 maps, 56 plates and 141 text illustrations.

This is undoubtedly the most scrupulously honest work that has ever been written about the islands of the Pacific. It is a little unusual to find the author making a note "the reason for this I have not yet been able to find out," or "I really do not know why this is so." But when such notes are used without the slightest hesitation there results a profound conviction of the absolute honesty of purpose of the observer and in almost equal measure of the rigid accuracy of all his observations. To this sternly simple method of telling what he has seen he joins yet one more great blessing, in that any theorizing upon which he may engage is sedulously distinguished from the observations of fact upon which such speculation is based.

For this reason it is particularly distressing that the author has been most shabbily treated in the matter of the four maps. Not often do we have the chance to fall foul of German cartography, but here we have an opportunity which we should much prefer to have foregone. These maps are mere sketches, wholly

lacking in proportion in the subordinating of details. The letter engraver has taken countless liberties with his text after the wont of such artist labourers. In his text our author points out errors on the ordinary charts and these very errors are perpetuated in the maps designed to illustrate that correcting text. He has been at great pains to describe the relative positions of new features of coast which he was first to visit, and not one of those valuable contributions appears upon these maps. While the book was going through the press Mr. Parkinson was obliged to be in the Gazelle Peninsula; probably, therefore, did not see the maps until he received his completed volume. The responsibility for such a botch must rest somewhere between the publisher and the Berlin editor. We grow into the knowledge of the truth and accuracy of Parkinson so completely in this monumental work that we declare him with perfect confidence not guilty of those maps.

In this record of observation, and Mr. Parkinson is by far the longest observer of the New Britannia Archipelago, our author follows the convenient method of splitting up the inquiry by the commonly accepted geographical divisions of main islands and of grouped islets. In each chapter of this subdivision he sketches with a graphic pen the physical features of the land itself and then upon the terrain thus made familiar to the reader he introduces the people who dwell therein. This spirited review occupies fully two-thirds of the volume, the remainder is quite as worthily filled with summation chapters upon masks and confraternities, traditional lore, the economics of savage life upon a remarkable low scale, the history of the discovery of the islands. Included therewith is a very valuable chapter on the languages of the region, written by Father Bley and Father Rascher, missionaries in that field.

In the matter of the masks and confraternities, and particularly of the masks and other carved figures, the speculations which our author feels that he may be allowed to enter upon come like a breeze of the good sound wind of common sense upon the fog which some recent students of museum material have managed to raise about a subject, which it is really impossible to discuss intelligently without an accurate knowledge of what the island mask-makers and mask-bearers understand by these emblems. By the simple procedure of buying a mask upon the spot of its use and then insisting that the vendors tell him what it means in general and then what each detail signifies, Mr. Parkinson has undone the stitching of many reams of speculative philosophizing on the subject.

Note should not be omitted that, although no mention of the fact is included in the title, this work contains about the sum of all available information concerning those remote Polynesian islands lying in Melanesia and respectively known as Nuguria, Tauu, Nukumanu and Ongtong Java (Liueniua). We may not accept the theory of their settlement by pure Polynesians in a reverse eddy of the general sweep of Polynesian streaming, but we must give respectful consideration to the arguments which the author adduces so ably. And this is all the more due to him, for it may well chance that this is the last word we shall ever have from a people fading away with lamentable rapidity. How close to the end they have come is sadly brought home to us by the startling fact that Mr. Parkinson was able to assemble within the edges of one photographic plate seventeen persons, described as the yet living population of the island Tauu.

A worthy book, one that any South Sea student might well be proud to have written.

W. C.